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# THE BAPTIST Record

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## Bible study, fun find place at Centrifuge

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Walk through Aspen Lodge at Glorieta, a LifeWay Conference Center, this summer and you're likely to run into some familiar families. There's the Bradys, Partridges, and DeFazios. You might even bump into some Taylors. You know, of the Mayberry variety.

OK, so it's not the real TV families you remember from your younger days, just "family groups" of teenagers participating in the Centrifuge youth camp. They're all caught up in

this year's '70s flashback theme, "Whatever You Gotta, Gotta Love."

Youth in grades seven through 12 are involved in Bible study, worship, and devotional times and every kind of extracurricular activity you can think of — from inline skating, volleyball, and football to choir, mime, and interpretive signing classes.

The Glorieta camp is one of 25 Centrifuge camps across the country that will attract thousands of teenagers before the summer is over.

With a staff of 20, the Glorieta camp alone attracts more than 550 students each week.

Additionally, Centrifuge/M-Fuge has 16 traveling teams that go to 23 states and one foreign country.

This summer, a total of 275 staffers are serving approximately 47,000 youth and counselors, reported Joe Palmer, manager of Centrifuge/Crosspoint for LifeWay.

"We have kids from all kinds of backgrounds, including some who are agnostic or very hostile to the Christian faith," Todd Maupin, director of the Glorieta camp, said.

"Sometimes it's the first time they've ever done anything related to church. They come up and ask us, 'What's this all about? Why are you doing this?'"

"It's amazing to see them process all of this and watch God move in their lives," Maupin said.

"Many of them accept Christ. It's also great to see kids who are already Christians get excited about their faith for the first time," he said.

Maupin, a student at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, is a three-year Centrifuge staff veteran. The two previous summers he was a Bible study leader at the Ridgecrest, N.C., camp.

"This is the most challenging job I've ever had because it



AIRBORNE AT CENTRIFUGE — Justin Vfligler of Desert Hills Church in Mesa, Ariz., goes airborne while inline skating at Centrifuge youth camp at Glorieta. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

requires me to be at top form physically, mentally, and spiritually, but it's all worth it. It's incredible to be a part of this," he pointed out.



SING-A-LONG — Danny Rogers of Covington, La., worship coordinator at the Glorieta Centrifuge camp, leads a sing-a-long during a morning celebration time. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

## ACLU pressures small town

REPUBLIC, Mo. (BP) — Facing the possibility of paying the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) costs in a lawsuit against the ichthus on their city seal, leaders of the small Missouri town of Republic have narrowly voted to remove the Christian fish symbol.

The July 19 decision by the town's board of aldermen was loudly booed by those in attendance. The ichthus, a historic symbol of Christianity, has adorned Republic's seal since 1990, when resident Marilyn Schexsnayder won a public competition to redesign the city's seal. Schexsnayder had said she thought the symbol represented all religions, but former Republic resident Jean Webb, a self-described witch and practitioner of Wicca, disagreed. Webb got the ACLU to side with her in a lawsuit against Republic, which she won in federal court July 9.

The board of aldermen's July 19 decision did not sit well with the 200-some residents in attendance, many of whom yelled "spineless cowards!" after Mayor Doug Boatright broke a 4-4 tie by voting against an appeal. Boatright had won reelection in April by promising vigorous support for keeping the fish in the city symbol. Boatright had told the Kansas City Star the symbol was not an unconstitutional government endorsement of Christianity, but rather a depiction of the community's general religious values. "This is nothing but a victory by those who believe in the tyranny of the minority," said Steve Fitschen, president of the National Legal Foundation of Virginia Beach, a Christian public interest law firm which represented Republic in its defense against Webb's lawsuit.

## WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

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## Looking back

### 10 years ago

A dispute continues over the election of Gulf Coast pastor Gregg Martin to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. The two Mississippians who served on the nomination committee claim their nominee was replaced with Martin just before the convention in Las Vegas.

### 25 years ago

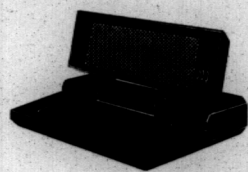
James Hillman Smith, executive secretary of Illinois Baptists, is elected executive director of the Brotherhood Commission. Smith, 58, is the unanimous choice of trustees, from more than 100 candidates, to serve as the fifth leader of the Southern Baptist men's ministry.

### 50 years ago

W. B. Able, pastor of Poplar Springs Drive Church, Meridian, resigns a second time to accept the call of Collins Church. The first time Able resigned, the church held a prayer meeting and asked him to reconsider. Now he has resigned a second time after 18 years at Poplar Springs Drive.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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# A health check for American society

One of the clearest indications of a given society's health (or lack thereof) is the treatment of its children. Virtually defenseless and unable to care for themselves, children have no choice but to depend on us for their well-being.

The Bible could not be more precise about God's love for the little ones; even the most basic biblical concordance has almost 40 references to children. Many of the references deal with how to raise children (Prov. 22:6), and many describe how much like children we all are before the Heavenly Father (1 Cor. 13:11).

The most poignant scriptural passages regarding children, however, have to be the pronouncements of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the pages of Mark.

"Whoever welcomes one of the little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me," he said in Mark 9:37 (NIV).

"And if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around his neck," he warned in Mark 9:42 (NIV).

"...Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these," he protested in Mark 10:14 (NIV).

If we believe the words of the Savior, and if a society's attitude toward children is indeed an indicator of its health, then America is truly a sick place where infanticide has been declared a "reproductive choice" and children can be dehumanized and exploited at will.

Don't believe it? Consider the latest conclusions of the prestigious and respected American Psychological Association (APA).

A July 1998 article in the APA's Psychological Bulletin reported a study that concluded sexual relations between adults and 'willing' children are less harmful than previously alleged and may even be positive for the children. To laymen, it certainly appeared APA was endorsing the sexual exploitation of children.

There was outrage over the article, but APA stood its ground. However, when it

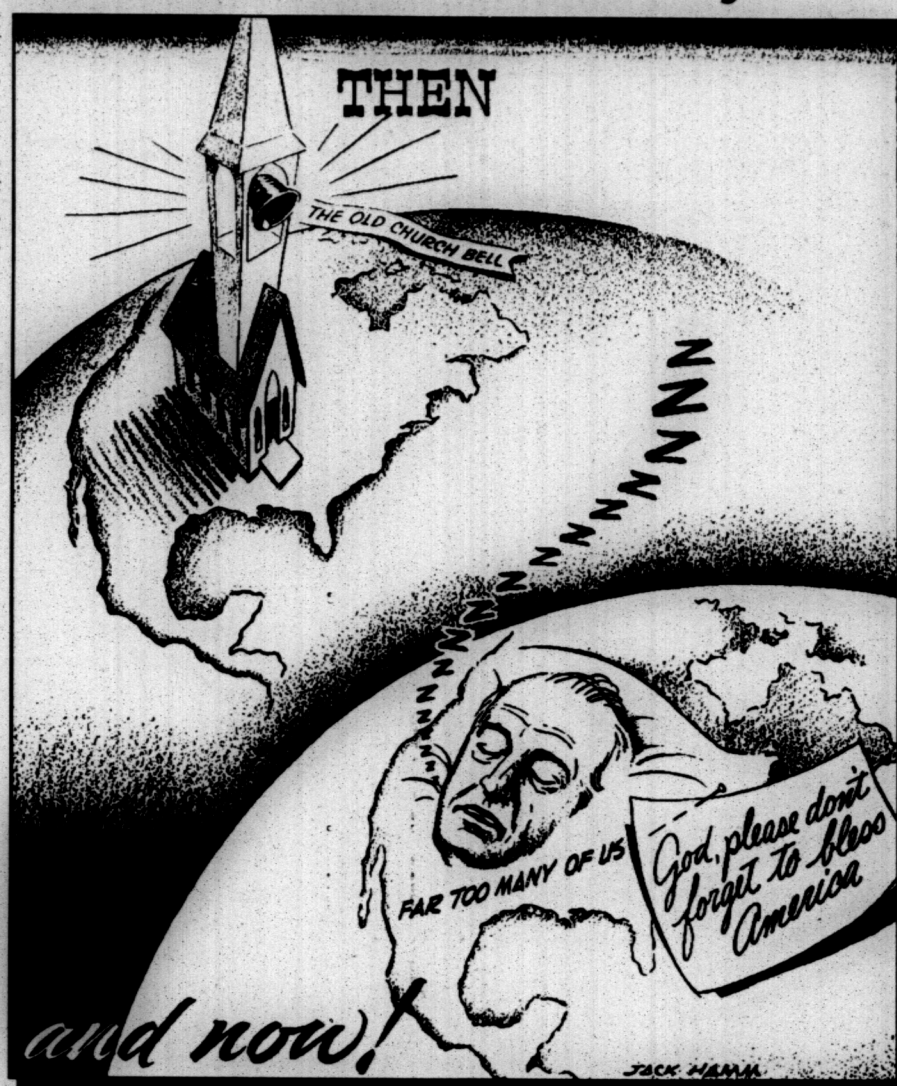
became clear that the U.S. House of Representatives was going to pass a crushing condemnation of the article, APA chief executive officer David Fowler rushed to Washington to hand-deliver an apology that acknowledged "inconsistencies" in the article and admitted that it should have been scrutinized more closely before publication.

The APA pledged to commission an outside review of the study upon which the article was based, and also promised to have its lawyers intervene with friend-of-the-court briefs in criminal cases where pedophiles were using the study and article as their defense for engaging in child sex.

The House passed the condemnation by a vote of 355-0, and messengers to the 1999 Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta unanimously approved a resolution calling for the protection of children from sexual predators and criticizing the publication of articles that "legitimize immoral behavior."

In an apparent effort to show how repentant they were for the first article, the APA has just published another article purporting to show that fathers are not important to their children and asserting that homosexuals, cohabiting heterosexuals, and single mothers can sufficiently fill that role.

"Deconstructing the Essential Father," by Louise Silverstein and Carl Auerbach of



Yeshiva University in New York, also notes that the presence of the father involves "potential costs" to the family, including "the consumption of family resources."

So there you have it, plain and simple from one of America's premiere institutions. Fathers are nothing more than feral bit players in the lives of their children — who can actually benefit from sexual exploitation at the hands of adults. Add those novel concepts to the long list of ways we already devalue children, and an unmistakable picture of our society emerges.

As our children go, so go we. If that's not enough to drive you to your knees before Almighty God, what will?

## GUEST OPINION:



### God & judgment in the 20th century

By Denton Lotz, president  
Baptist World Alliance

of this century. The war in Kosovo, the ethnic cleansing of the Albanians by Serbian forces, the tragic bombing of Belgrade, Novi Sad, and Nis all point to humankind's inability to bring peace.

Abraham Lincoln, the 16th US President, was perhaps one of America's greatest theologians of the 19th century. In contemplating the civil war he wrote these words: "Both read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread

from the sweat of other men's faces; but let us judge not that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes. 'Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!'"

In the end, as at the beginning, God is the judge of history. But, not only at the end of time, in time! A look at this century sees God's judgments upon Hitler and Stalin, God's judgment upon communism and all other dictatorships

which enslave. Very often it is only when we look back upon history that we can see the hand of God in history. And for that reason we need to read the Bible and understand even more how God acts in history to complete His will, which is one of justice and righteousness. As we enter the 21st century what is God telling the world about Serbia and Kosovo? What is God telling us about student violence in Littleton, Colorado, and the persecution of Christians in India? It is difficult to discern God's will in the midst of the struggle, but we listen to David, 'the judgments of the Lord, are true. Our responsibility as Christians is to act righteously in difficult times with confident hope that in the end God will bring justice, even in our affliction: "I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me. Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to the word unto thy servant." (Psalm 119:75-76)



# Worship conference to be held Aug. 13 in Jackson

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

The Witness Team of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) is sponsoring a worship conference Aug. 13, from 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at the Baptist Building in Jackson. There is a \$20 registration fee which covers the conference, materials, and lunch.

The conference is titled *Worship in the New Millennium*, and will focus on the essence of worship and worship planning for today's church.

Graham Smith, director of the MBCB Church Music Department, said the conference is designed for worship leaders, whether that person is a pastor, minister of music, other staff member, or a lay leader.

Featured are Gary Furr and Milburn Price, both of University in Birmingham.



Furr

Alabama and co-authors of the book, *The Dialogue of Worship: Creating Space for Revelation and Response*, published by Smyth & Helwys. Each conference participant will receive a copy of the book.

Furr is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Southeastern Seminary, and Baylor University. He has pastored churches in

Texas, Georgia, Alabama, and is currently pastor of Vestavia Hills Church in Birmingham, Ala. Furr has also served since 1995 as an adjunct professor in the department of religion at Samford

Price is dean of School of Music at Samford University. A native of Mississippi, Price holds degrees from the University of Mississippi, Baylor University, and the University of Southern California. He was dean of the School of Church Music at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., for 12 years.

The six sessions of the conference focus on: What is really essential in worship?; Planning for worship — predictable routine or creative opportunity?; What church musicians should know about pastors and what pastors should know about church musicians; a workshop in worship planning; discussion of sample worship services; and how to avoid worship wars.

The conference concludes



Price

with an open forum for questions and discussion.

For more information or to make reservations contact Smith at the MBCB Church Music Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 292-3267, or toll-free outside of Jackson (800) 748-1651.



THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST  
*Record*

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## Seminary president counseled for 'anger'

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP & ABP) — Midwestern Seminary President Mark Coppenger offered an expression of repentance for "misappropriation of anger" in a meeting with the seminary's trustee executive committee July 30. Trustees received his statement and reported specific recommendations regarding steps to repentance and restoration had been embraced by the president.

Trustees required the 51-year-old Coppenger, who has been president of the Southern Baptist seminary in Kansas City, Mo., for four years, to follow specific steps to aid "repentance and restoration" for what has been described as a chronic problem with anger. Officials would not say what specific steps Coppenger would take, but a knowledgeable source said they include counseling.

In a four-hour executive session in Kansas City, the trustee executive committee discussed leadership issues with Coppenger raised during a two-month investigation by trustee officers. The findings reportedly included other concerns, but the focus of the called July 30 meeting was anger.

Two members of the executive committee, Kent Cochran of Kansas City, Mo., and Tony Mattia of Wamega, Kan., reportedly filed a formal complaint in late May about repeated reports that Coppenger became enraged and used profanity in discussions with seminary employees.

After lodging the most recent complaint, the seminary's dean and vice president of academic affairs, James Cogdill, was reportedly fired by Coppenger, but the trustee executive committee reinstated him the following day. Cogdill declined comment.

Trustee officers interviewed both current and former staff and developed a list of leadership concerns presented to Coppenger when he returned from a two-week mission trip to Africa, July 27.

During the closed-door meeting with trustee leaders, Coppenger acknowledged the "problem" of his anger and "embraced" the committee's recommended steps for "repentance and restoration," according to a brief written statement read to reporters.

Trustee chairman Carl Weiser, pastor of Hyland Heights Church in Lynchburg, Va., said the committee would "not elaborate on specifics," since the discussion involved a personnel matter. In his remarks to the closed executive committee session,

Coppenger read the following statement which was later issued publicly:

"At Midwestern, we pray that the Lord will show us any obstacles to revival in our own lives and on our campus. This summer, the Lord has graciously answered that prayer for me. We speak of the prairie fire of awakening and note that prairie fire serves to burn out the clutter in our lives. In my own life, I've come to understand that the misappropriation of anger has provided such an obstacle."

Asked if he believed the trustee investigation would hurt his ability to lead the seminary, Coppenger said "anytime you have sin in your life," it hinders potential. "If you have a flaw in your own life, you're less than you could be," he said.

In his formal written statement to reporters, Coppenger said he has come to understand his anger has been an "obstacle" to revival and hoped his commitment to reconciliation would contribute to "revival here and beyond." A trustee statement sounded a similar theme, saying the committee is praying "that the example of this biblical process will serve as an example to the students, faculty, and trustees of Midwestern and others."

"It is our sincere and prayerful desire that God will use these events to work revival in this place," the statement said. Weiser said the executive committee would give a complete report to the full trustee board

when it meets next fall. He said that report would be in executive session.

Coppenger was the only candidate interviewed by a presidential search committee that nominated him to the post in 1995. He is the 41-year-old school's third president. The search committee cited Coppenger's conservative theology and his "vision and leadership" as qualities that won him the job. Enrollment at Midwestern has risen from 494 students in 1995 to 705 students last fall, and trustees recently launched a capital campaign to fund new buildings.

## Hot shot in the Mississippi sun



Participants take their positions under the hot Mississippi sun as a camera crew prepares to film a scene for the new series of television advertisements being produced by the church information support team of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The ads showcase Mississippi Baptists in everyday scenes shot around the state, while the soundtrack features an original recording of "Amazing Grace" and a prayer specially written for the advertisements. The ads will begin airing in the next few weeks on Mississippi television stations that are members of the Mississippi Broadcasters Association. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)



## B.H. Buchanan Sr., Book Link founder, dies

Benjamin Hal Buchanan Sr., 81, founder of Book Link and the Mississippi Baptist Educational Missions Fellowship, died of heart failure July 7 in Tupelo. Funeral services were July 9 at Calvary Church, Tupelo, where he was a deacon, Sunday School teacher, and mission trip leader.



Buchanan

Buchanan began Book Link to send Bibles and Christian literature to schools and Southern Baptist missionaries around the world, and later established a foundation to pay the costs associated with the program. It is estimated that missionaries, mission schools, and seminaries in 61 countries have received Christian materials through Book Link.

Buchanan was also instrumental in establishing the educational missions fellowship to encourage education professionals to become more involved in missions. He was the recipient of the Owen Cooper Award from the National Fellowship of Baptist Men and the Man of the Year in Service award.

He also served on the Mississippi Baptist Convention's Order of Business Committee (1986-88) and Board of Ministerial Education (1992-94).

Buchanan is survived by his wife of 57 years, Dorothy, of Tupelo; sons Ben Buchanan Jr. and Bill Buchanan, both of Tupelo, and Bob Buchanan of Madison; one sister, three brothers, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A memorial fund honoring Buchanan has been established through the Book Link Foundation at the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

# Commitment to service layman's hallmark

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

In the early 1950s, while Tom Winstead was serving as church training director at Calvary Church, Jackson, he attended Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina. Missionary Baker James Cauthen was the speaker for the week.

"There were over 3,000 people registered that week," he recalled while sitting on the couch in his den in Clinton. "On the last night (Cauthen) called for all who had ever felt called to pastor or the ministry to come forward," he said.

Winstead remembers over half of the crowd going forward that night. He was still at his seat, but the Lord was working on his heart.

"I really struggled in my heart. I wanted to go down. I wondered if the Lord was calling me to the ministry, but I stayed where I was, and after we got home the Lord showed me why.

"The Lord told me not every one is called to be a preacher. He said he needed lay people, too. He said to prepare myself to be the best lay person I could be. So I set about to prepare myself for whatever tasks he called me to do."

Winstead proceeded to earn a total of 252 study course awards. He earned the basic diploma, the advanced diploma, the masters diploma, the distinguished diploma, and the special citation diploma. These alone represent 500 hours of study course credit.

He also earned all five Sunday School and Discipleship Training Specialist certificates; the Deacon Ministry diploma; Experiencing God diploma; and the Great Commission Breakthrough Consultant diploma.

"Now there is a lot of duplication in these awards," Winstead is careful to point out. "For instance, each diploma requires the Baptist Faith and Message," he said, "but there is enough work for 400 study course awards."

The 81-year-old retired Veterans Administration employee is not trying to brag. "I took the Lord at his word, to prepare myself to be the best layman I could be. I prepared myself to do the work."

Winstead has spent a lifetime doing the work of the Lord. A member at Calvary Church since 1949, he faithfully served the congregation through numerous positions — many of which were held simultaneously.

Winstead spent nine years as Sunday School director. "Five of those the church was without a minister of education," he pointed out.

He spent six years as a Sunday School teacher, nine as a department director, five as a department outreach leader, and 20 years as the coordinator for the Children's division of both Sunday School and discipleship training.

Winstead also spent 12 years as discipleship training director; three years as associate director; seven years as a department director.

He and his wife Lucile also invested 47 years with youth and children's Bible Drill, at both the church and state levels.

"People over the state used to greet me as 'Mr. Bible Drill,'" he said. "I've had people come up to me and say, 'You called my drill when I was young; now I want you to call my children's Bible Drill.'" He has also called a few third-generation Bible drillers.

For 29 years Winstead was the caller for the select drill that determined who would represent Mississippi Baptists at Ridgecrest.

He served the association and state conventions at various levels, from leading workshops and conferences at Gulfshore to eight years as a trustee for LifeWay Christian Resources (formerly the Baptist Sunday School Board).

When LifeWay was ready to publish a Bible Drill guide for churches, Winstead served as the only lay person on the five-member design team.

Winstead was also involved in leading Calvary Church in establishing the first Special Education Sunday School class in the Southern Baptist Convention.

"There was no material for this. I prepared lesson books by taking the Primary and Beginner material and cutting out parts and pasting them on paper. That way a 12- or 15-year-old child who could read wouldn't know he was using five or six year old material," he said.

The Winstead's Clinton home is filled with photos of their daughter, their four grandchildren, and now great-grandchild-



Winstead

dren. He also has a notebook with one study course diploma after another.

Recovering from heart bypass heart surgery, Winstead is not able to be out as much as in the past, but he still cares deeply for his church and the work of the Lord.

"The greatest compliment every paid to me was made by Dr. (Joe) Tuten. I learned that on Monday mornings at a pastors meeting, other ministers would ask Dr. Tuten when he was going to get a minister of education. He would say, 'I don't need one. I've got a layman who knows more about Sunday School and Church Training than most of the men coming out of seminary.'"

Much of this knowledge came from church study courses.

## Retired ministers benefit tourney set Sept. 9-10

The third annual Retired Ministers Benefit Golf Tournament is planned for Sept. 9-10 at Bay Point Golf Club, eight miles north of Brandon on Highway 471, according to Andy Holder of Raymond Road Church, Jackson.

Benefits from the tournament will go to the relief fund of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and will be designated for Mississippi retired ministers or their spouses in need. Co-sponsored by Community Bank of Rankin County and Raymond Road Church, the tournament raised \$5,800 its first year in 1997, and \$10,000 in 1998.

According to Holder, there are more than 1,000 retired ministers, missionaries, or their widows live at or below poverty level in Mississippi. "After seeing a video of this terrible situation while in Glorieta (Conference Center) at a Chautauqua, I just could not rest without trying to do something. Being an avid golfer, I prayed about it and with God

leading the way I decided to try a benefit gold tournament like the many I have played in before."

The tournament is an 18-hole scramble, and participants can play either day or both

days. Flights begin at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. each day. A cash prize of \$500 is offered for the closest to the pin.

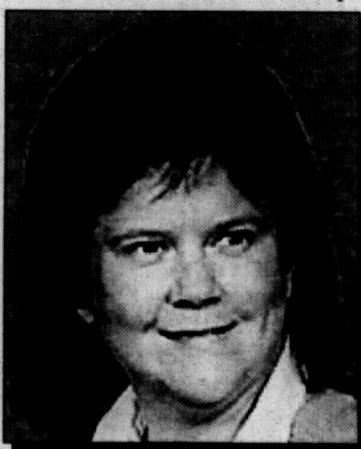
Holder says he is looking for additional corporate and individual sponsors and volun-

teers. "Every penny that is taken in goes to these needy servants," he said.

For more information, call Raymond Road Church at (601) 372-6154 or Holder at (601) 373-9520.

## Mississippi missionary acquitted in Zimbabwe

HARARE, Zimbabwe (BP) — Mississippian Alicia L. Farnham, a Southern Baptist International Service Corps (ISC) missionary in Zimbabwe, was



Farnham

acquitted July 19 of culpable homicide in a case stemming from a May 16, 1998 automobile accident in which one person died.

A magistrate in Harare, Zimbabwe, dismissed the case because the prosecutor presented no evidence of any wrongdoing, said Barry Robinson, a Southern Baptist

International Mission Board missionary working in Zimbabwe. Farnham's defense lawyer did not even have to present his case on her behalf.

Farnham, of McComb, was transporting four women and a seminary student to a coronation service for a girls' missionary organization when a car driven by a prominent businessman apparently pulled out in front of her.

When Farnham swerved to avoid a collision, her car rolled over, killing one of the women. The businessman has since died from injuries received in another traffic accident.

Farnham, 37, was scheduled to complete her two-year ISC assignment in theological education by extension on Aug. 1.

The decision frees her to return to the United States without any complications. Farnham is one of several missionaries who have recently faced charges after traffic accidents involving fatalities.



# VBS reports see record number of decisions

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Richard Kirk has a suggestion for a course offering at Southern Baptist seminaries: Vacation Bible School Survival 101.

Kirk, minister of education at First Baptist Church, Bothell, Wash., literally went "above and beyond" the call of duty recently to add excitement to his congregation's VBS. The church used materials published by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention which were built around a mountain climbing/adventure theme.

A member of Kirk's church works for the rescue unit of the Seattle Fire Department. He rigged cables from a tent hanging in the air at the top of the church's balcony to the front of the auditorium. When it came time for the VBS pledges, Kirk came out of the tent yelling, "Don't start without me; I'm coming down from the mountain," and was lowered to the floor.

"I led the pledges in the harness and helmet," Kirk said. "It was a riot. Then our music minister came down the same way, playing the theme song on his guitar ... I

think they should offer VBS survival classes in seminary."

That's just one example of the creative ways Southern Baptist churches are carrying out LifeWay's 1999 VBS theme, "Mt. Extreme: The Ultimate Good News Challenge" this summer. Many are reporting record numbers in both enrollment and professions of faith.

More than 900 children attended VBS at Bear Creek Baptist Church in Houston. Minister of education Omar Garcia reported the church held one VBS in the morning and another in the afternoon, reaching a different group of kids each session. "We had over 200 faculty and 90 percent of our teachers taught both sessions," Garcia said. "Another group of volunteers took the children of our teachers on field trips in the afternoon, so they could be free to teach. It was really a team effort."

Linda Hall, director of Bear Creek's VBS, got the leaders and kids "totally immersed in the Mt. Extreme experience," Garcia recounted. "We had rooms decorated from

floor to ceiling and stations with everything from a mountain biking area to a snow scene where kids had to wear snow shoes and 'ski' across a floor of white packing peanuts.

"It was a lot of fun, but it had a serious point, too. Everything reinforced the Bible stories."

Garcia said 89 professions of faith were recorded during Bear Creek's VBS, adding contact was made with 200 unchurched families in the community. The church delivers a follow-up package to each family, including information about its children's ministry, a needs survey, and fun stuff for the kids.

"For families that are concerned about having a quality experience for their children, there's nothing better than VBS," Garcia said. "And it's an incredible evangelistic tool, too. We've found it's a great vehicle for getting the gospel into the homes of unchurched boomers and busters in our community."

First Church of McAllen, Texas, broke its all-time enrollment record with 840 kids registered in its VBS this summer. More importantly, 54 decisions for Christ were reported during the week.

VBS director Becky Richardson said the church had good luck with a van route which picked up kids from several nearby elementary schools. Other vehicles used to attract children included a 25-foot high inflatable (and climbable) mountain, an obstacle course, and moon walk.

The church also gave away mountain bikes to the boy and girl who brought the most friends with them to VBS. (The winning girl brought 20.)



ACTIVITY TIME — Fifth grader Daniel DeMoss (center) takes part in First Church's VBS week in Nashville, Tenn. Rob Sanders and Kay Parker of LifeWay Christian Resources were teachers for the week. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

## VBS attracts 3.2 million people

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Approximately 60,000 professions of faith were reported in 1998 in Southern Baptist Vacation Bible Schools (VBS), a ministry that attracted more than 3.2 million people to churches across the country.

According to the Annual Church Profile (ACP), an annual statistical report compiled by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, 29,042 Southern Baptist churches conducted VBS last year, enrolling 3,232,712 children, youth, and adults.

Becky Martin, VBS consultant in LifeWay's Sunday School-FAITH ministry department, said 14,156 churches also mailed in more detailed VBS reports for 1998. According to these records, 59,185 decisions for Christ were reported, up from the '97 total of 53,606. In addition, churches discovered 366,972 Sunday School prospects. Martin said the actual numbers of decisions and prospect discoveries were likely "significantly higher" since many churches did not return the more detailed VBS reports to LifeWay. In other statistics from the '98 report:

- 41,314 prospects were enrolled in Sunday School through the VBS Transfer Plan.
- 2,525 decisions for church-related vocations were recorded.
- 1,177 mentally handicapped persons enrolled in VBS.
- 8,341 Bible schools (59 percent of the total) were held in the evening, 4,925 were held in the morning (35 percent), 521 were a combination of the two (4 percent) and 248 were held in the afternoon (2 percent).

"Historically, VBS is the greatest generator of Sunday School prospects in Southern Baptist churches and one of our most effective evangelistic tools," Bill Taylor, director of LifeWay's Sunday School group, he said.

### DISAPPEARING ACT

Here in Mississippi we have been in the thick of the political season. Hundreds of people running for elected office are constantly on the television explaining to us how bad things are and how good they are. The ads criticize everything from airplane rides, to not being conservative, to criticizing other candidates too much. It's true — some criticize some for criticizing some too much. Oh, but that's not the purpose of my article. Let me get back on track, for a bigger issue looms before us.

During these days of heated political advertising, one day I suddenly realized that nearly all the other advertisers had disappeared — vanished, gone! Where did they go? I'm serious, you think about it. All of those wonderful ads about office furniture, running shoes, and car tires — they are not to be found. Then there were those exciting ads selling cars, and "see-you-at-college." Where did they go? All of them have just been squeezed out and cannot be found.



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Surely somebody, somewhere knows where those "usual" ads have gone, but nobody I know knows! I did some investigative work myself to try to find out and could not find out a thing! I asked folks who should be "in-the-know" and they knew less than I did. I even asked a guy who was a part-time investigator to help me and he was no help at all. The only thing we know is that they are gone and we don't know where they went.

Now the real reason I am so concerned about the disappearing ads is because I thought that maybe if we could locate them we could find, at the same place, all the church members who have mysteriously disap-

peared. That is what I was really looking for. I just can't figure it out. Folks are in church, involved, and taking part in activities — then "POOF" — they disappear. Some just disappear for a few weeks during the summer, but others disappear never to be heard from again. You may think this is not serious, but virtually every church across our state has members that have disappeared. In many of our churches we have a list of "non-resident" church members, but I tell you what you can do — set out to find where they are, or if they are, and you will discover that many of them have vanished from the face of the earth! You can't find them. Why is this

such a problem? Well, think about it. We have more "unfindable" church members than church members who are attending on Sunday morning.

My concern is that these folks may be in a desperate situation. They may be held hostage, or they may have been captured by some alien spaceship. You know, not many Christian folks would just leave the church and not care anything about getting back in a fellowship. They need our help. We need them, and surely somebody, somewhere will have an idea where they have gone. Let's find them and help them back. You might want to put this notice up in your church:

### NOTICE

Anyone who can provide information leading to the discovery and safe return of missing saints to the warm and caring fellowship of the church, GREAT will be your reward in Heaven and "I will hug your neck!"

Jim Futral

## Tolar named interim dean at SWBTS

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — William B. Tolar has been named interim dean of the school of theology at Southwestern Seminary (SWBTS).

Southwestern President Kenneth S. Hemphill is conducting a nationwide search to replace Mississippian Thomas Lea, who died of cancer on July 3. Hemphill gave no word on when he hopes to find a new dean.

Tolar is distinguished professor of biblical backgrounds and special consultant to the president at the Fort Worth, Texas, seminary. He was elected to the seminary's faculty in 1965 and has served in several leadership positions. He was vice president for academic affairs and provost from 1990-96 and dean of the school of theology from 1981-90.



# Glorieta stop turns into week-long ministry

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Anyone who thinks retirement is all about fishing and golf hasn't met J.D. McCambridge.

Since his retirement two years ago, he's been everywhere from Canada to Colorado helping build churches and semi-

nary housing. Active with the Texas Baptist Men Camp Builders, he and his wife, Sue, drive their 37-foot recreational vehicle across the country, helping out where they're needed and enjoying the scenery along the way.

On July 17, the couple stopped by Glorieta, a LifeWay Conference Center, "just for the night. I didn't know what conference week it would be, but I knew I would hear some good preaching here," J.D. said with a smile. "I wasn't disappointed."

While on site, McCambridge decided to see if his 48 years as a plasterer could be of any use around the Glorieta, N.M., campus. Not long after meeting with Don Olsen, coordinator of the

Glorieta volunteer workforce, he was hard at work repairing the stucco on Aspen Lodge. His overnight stay turned into a week-long ministry.

"I've done the tourist thing," J.D. said. "I'd rather be doing something productive. It's a lot more satisfying."

Billie Koller, senior manager of administration and support at Glorieta, said approximately 85 people will volunteer their services at Glorieta during 1999.

Already this year, volunteers have logged more than 10,000 hours of service, doing every-

thing from grounds and maintenance work to punching meal tickets at the cafeteria and staffing the First Aid station.

"Most of them stay about four to eight weeks," Koller said, "but some of them stay all summer. We really count on them."

## International Mission Study to be combined with Week of Prayer

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Week of Prayer for International Missions and the International Mission Study have combined forces. Traditionally the annual events were observed separately but starting this year, the two emphases will be combined into the week traditionally set aside for the Week of Prayer.

The idea to combine the two weeks into one seemed natural to both the International Mission Board (IMB) and the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), said IMB executive vice president Don Kammerdiener.

"Most churches were only using one week for both of the emphases," he said. "We decided to combine forces and offer a package that would be cost-effective and far-reaching."

The joint decision came after many denominational calendars were already printed for the years 1999 and 2000. These calendars still show the annual events on separate weeks. The correct dates will be: Nov. 28-Dec. 5, 1999; Dec. 3-10, 2000; and Dec. 2-9, 2001.

Kammerdiener said the materials will be designed so churches can still schedule the International Mission Study separate from the Week of Prayer.

Also this year, the traditional boxed mission study will not be published. Free resources for the mission study will be found in the November editions of "The Commission" mag-

azine, "On Mission with God" videos, and mobilization fliers. Churches with missions organizations will find the mission study emphasis in their weekly or monthly curriculum for November or December 1999.

In addition, WMU has produced study guides which will enable churches to transform information about the missionaries into church-wide events that will attract those who do not routinely participate in missions organizations.

The theme for the special week will be "The Unfinished Task: Loving the Lost." The International Mission Study takes church members to areas of the world which represent different categories of "lostness." The mission study will feature work among cultural Christians in Brazil, Arab Muslims in Sudan, and the Han of China, among other people groups.

The Week of Prayer Guide will continue the same theme. Church members will pray during the week for eight different people groups or population segments.

To order products for the International Mission Study, call the IMB Resource Center at (800) 866-3621; WMU Customer Service at (800) 968-7301; and NAMC Customer Service (LifeWay Christian Resources) at (800) 448-8032.

Prayer guides for Week of Prayer for International Missions will be available mid-October through state WMU offices.



LABOR OF LOVE — J.D. McCambridge patches stucco at Aspen Lodge in Glorieta. With 48 years' experience as a plasterer, J.D. felt like he could do his part to help. He has been involved in projects as far away as the Canadian Baptist seminary. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

## Staff changes

Pass Road Church, Gulfport, has called Keith Thrash to their pastoral staff effective Aug. 1. The church welcomed him with a reception on Aug. 1. Thrash was previously pastor of Russell Church, Meridian.

**Mt. Vernon, Newton:** Aug. 8-12; Sunday, 11 a.m., old fashioned service followed by dinner on the grounds; Sun.-Thu., 7 p.m.; Randy Clark, Laurel, evangelist; Merrill Cassel, music; Steve Pouncey, pastor.

**Branch (Scott):** Aug. 8-11; Sunday, 11 a.m., followed by dinner and afternoon service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gayden Harrell, evangelist; Norman Huggins, music; Michael Giles, pastor.

**Pilgrim's Rest, Ethel:** Aug. 8-11; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; services, 11 a.m. followed by luncheon, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Larry Harvey, evangelist; Buster Oliver, music; Linda Thompson, pianist; Walter Hines, pastor.

**Harmony, Crystal Springs:** Aug. 8-13; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; speakers will include D.J. Benson, Laurel; Greg Clemts, Vicksburg; Barry Clingan, Brandon; Daryl Oster, Brandon; Tommy Brill, Pascagoula; and Don Boone, Agricola.

**Clear Springs (Yalobusha):** Aug. 8-13; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Jerry Smith, guest speaker; Lonnie Waller, pastor.

**Holcomb, Holcomb:** Aug. 8-11; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; David Miller, Heber Springs, Ark., guest speaker; Tommy Smith, Greenwood, music; Randy Ashley, pastor.

**Little Bahala (Lincoln):** Aug. 8-11; Sunday, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall at noon; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bart Walker, Parkway Church, Natchez, evangelist; Tom and Willa Moak, music; Wayne Grey, pastor.

**First Church, Lauderdale:** Aug. 8-11; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon luncheon and 7 p.m.; Rex Yancey, Pascagoula, evangelist; Tom Harrison, Lauderdale, music; Jerry Bishop, pastor.

**McLaurin Heights, Pearl:** Days of Grace and Glory, 7 p.m. each Monday night in August; guest speakers include Billy Smith, Madison; Michael John Clement, Birmingham, Ala.; Jim Futral, Jackson; Mickey Dalrymple, Columbus; guest musicians include Major McDaniel, Clinton; Greg Pinkner, Dallas, Tex.; Graham Smith, Jackson; Slater Murphy, Columbus; J. Steve Jackson is pastor.



Schedule a meeting today, at no obligation, to discuss your renovation needs.

1 800 654 1294

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Let Custom Church Interiors assist your church in updating its facilities for ministry in the new millennium. We handle all details by providing these services:

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- Interior Color-Styling
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More than 600 churches throughout Mississippi put their faith in Wellington Associates for comprehensive insurance services including property, general and specific liability, vehicle, workers compensation, and other coverages. Wellington guarantees a quality program, customized for your ministry, at the most competitive premium rates.

For references and more information, call Mike Brooks at 601-353-2400 or 1-800-442-0290.



Wellington Associates, Inc.



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

August 5, 1999

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

## STATE CHOIR LEADERSHIP CLINIC

ALTA WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON  
AUGUST 20-21

- PRESCHOOL
- CHILDREN
- YOUTH

COST: \$5  
NO REGISTRATION  
REQUIRED



### COORDINATOR

**Anita Wagoner**

Children's Writer and Editor  
Church Music—LifeWay Christian Resources  
Nashville, Tenn.



### PRESCHOOL

**Sandy Stephenson**

Choir Coordinator and  
Preschool Writer and Director  
The Church at Brook Hill, Birmingham, Ala.



### YOUNGER CHILDREN

**Linda Dutton**

Managing Director for the  
Houston Children's Chorus  
Houston, Texas



### OLDER CHILDREN

**Eileen Jones Straw**

Clinician, Writer, Editor and  
Consultant for Children Choirs  
Roswell, Ga.



### YOUTH

**Slater Murphy**

Minister of Music  
Fairview Baptist Church  
Columbus, Miss.

### GRADES 1-6

**Sarah Talley**

**Gloria Speed**

**Katrina Marler**



## WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 20

6:00 p.m. ....Registration  
6:30 .....Classes  
8:00 .....Break  
8:30 .....Classes  
9:30 .....Adjourn

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 21

8:00 a.m. ....Registration  
8:30 .....Classes  
10:00 .....Break  
10:30 .....Classes  
Noon .....Adjourn

For more information contact the Church Music Dept., MBCB, 601-968-3800, 1-800-748-1651

## Miss. Singles Ministers

## Fellowship Banquet

First Baptist Church, Biloxi  
Friday, August 13  
6:30 p.m.

### Mac Hotz, speaker

singles minister, Clarksville, Tenn.

RSVP by August 11, 1999

(Spouses are invited)

Call James Haynes (1-228-374-3310)

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
will furnish the meal.

## Singles Leaders/ Ministers Seminars

First Baptist Church  
Biloxi

Saturday, August 14  
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

## FREE!

### Start a Revolution

led by Doug and Sarah Stephens  
Clarksville, Tenn.

## Leadership Conference

led by Mac Holtz

- Handouts • Free Literature
- Refreshments



# G•R•O•W

August 30, 7 - 9 p.m.  
Central Baptist Church, Meridian

(formerly South Side Baptist Church) 2511 C Street  
From I-20, take the 22nd Ave. exit, go north on 22nd Ave., turn left on  
C Street, go 3 blocks and church is on the left.

## Leader: Jerry Tidwell

Author and developer of *Outreach Teams That Win: G.R.O.W.*

For more info contact the Sunday School Department, MBCB  
(601)968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

## Outreach Teams That Win: G.R.O.W.

"G.R.O.W." is based on Dr. Tidwell's phenomenally successful outreach approach. Under this proven-effective plan church members are asked to commit just one evening each month to outreach...with several different avenues from which they can choose. You will not want to miss this opportunity!

No pre-registration required  
No cost for the conference  
No child care provided

Jerry Tidwell is the pastor of West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, Tenn. He has a bachelor of science in secondary education from the University of North Alabama, a master of divinity and doctor of ministry from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. The churches he has pastored include: Garner Baptist Church in Weatherford, Tex.; Santo First Baptist Church in Santo, Tex.; Grace Baptist Church in Tullahoma, Tenn.



## Sunday School Leadership Training

Two great training opportunities now in two locations!

**"Gulfshore North"**  
September 10-11  
Calvary Baptist Church  
Tupelo

**Special Guests:**  
David Grumbach  
David Prevost  
Blue Mountain BSU Drama Team

For information  
contact the Sunday School Department, MBCB  
601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

**"Glorieta on the Gulf"**  
September 17-18  
First Baptist Church  
Gulfport

### Preschool Electives

Preschool Policies and Procedures  
Planning for Ministry for Preschoolers  
Preschool Learning Centers and Activities

### Children Electives

Talking with Children about Salvation  
Tomorrow's Child - How to Connect & Have Fun with Children  
Teaching Children Sundays and Beyond

### Youth Electives

Fast Food Frenzy: Ideas for Fellowship and Outreach Through Youth Sunday School  
The Road Game: Ways to Do Youth Bible Study Other Than Sunday Morning  
It's a Family Thing: Suggestions On Involving Parents in Sunday School

### Adult Electives

Ministering to Young Adults  
Ministering to Median Adults  
Ministering to Senior Adults  
Reaching Through Evangelism and Caring in the Sunday School  
Reaching Through Discipleship in the Sunday School (Teaching)  
Reaching Through Fellowship and Worship in the Sunday School

### General Officers

Designing Your Sunday School for the 21st Century

### Pastors

Developing Vision and Strategy for the 21st Century

### Gulfshore North Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Church Name \_\_\_\_\_ # of persons attending conference \_\_\_\_\_  
# of persons attending dinner on Friday night \_\_\_\_\_ (Cost: \$5 per person)  
Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Registration is due by August 27th with applicable meal payment.  
Complete form and mail to: Sunday School Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530  
No child care provided.

Gulfshore North is A Ministry of Your Cooperative Program, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
601-968-3800 1-800-748-1651 www.mbc.org

**For information or to register for Glorieta on the Gulf, call or write:**  
Gulf Coast Baptist Association, P.O. Box 2369, Gulfport, MS 39505, 228-832-4311

Sponsored by:  
Gulf Coast Baptist Association, Jackson County Baptist Association  
Pearl River Baptist Association, Sunday School Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

A Ministry of Your Cooperative Program, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board



# Trilogh

## CONFERENCE

### God on Mission in Our World

August 9, Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Jackson

A conference for anyone seeking God and to know His will, desiring to be like Christ, and discovering the work of the Holy Spirit. Join this trio for a life-changing experience!



**Robertson McQuilkin** - Follow as McQuilkin leads you up the spiral to a Spirit-filled life to move you into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. Discover how the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit transforms lives and impacts your life as a disciple of Jesus. As a Christian our relationship with God and our walk can make a difference in this world.



**Richard Blackaby** - Feel the warmth and personality as you hear Blackaby. You will be encouraged as he shares how he has relied on God in his spiritual journey. Hear him reveal how God speaks and how you can seek, find and accomplish the will of God for your own life. Know the richness of how Christ, as the head of the body, can inspire spiritual awakening in our lives



**T.W. Hunt** - Come walk in the high country with Hunt, master teacher of The Mind of Christ. This is a man of God whose life and ministry exemplifies Philippians 2:5, "Let this mind be in you, which was also Christ Jesus." Hear how he came to know the mind of Christ through his pilgrimage as he made Jesus Lord of his life of which he said, "I have no regrets." Stand apart from the world today as you become like Christ, emulating HIS lifestyle and thinking the thoughts of Christ.

#### Conference Schedule, Monday, August 9

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Registration, Bookstore Open
3:00 - 3:30	Worship Music, Welcome, Introductions
3:30 - 4:30	Richard Blackaby
4:30 - 6:30	Break for Dinner at local restaurants, Bookstore Open
6:30 - 6:45	Worship Music
6:45 - 7:45	T.W. Hunt
7:45 - 8:00	Worship Music, Stand up Break
8:00 - 9:00	Robertson McQuilkin
9:00 - 9:15	Call for Commitment
9:15	Conference Concludes, Bookstore Open

There is no Conference Fee.

**For registration**  
info, contact Joseph Northcut  
(615)251-5624  
Please register 14 days in advance

Co-sponsored by the  
Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of MBCB

## Family to Family

A way for hurried families to find significance by discovering and living God's purpose for their families.

## Awareness Conferences

### FAMILIES MAKING A DIFFERENCE

#### LOCATIONS

August 16 (Monday)	FBC, Batesville, (601) 563-7655
August 17 (Tuesday)	FBC, Columbus, (601) 328-3915
August 30 (Monday)	FBC, Laurel, (601) 649-5710
August 31 (Tuesday)	McLaurin Heights BC, Pearl (601) 939-3379

#### SCHEDULE

6:30 p.m. Supper (free)	RSVP to host churches
7:15 p.m. Presentation-Family to Family	
8:30 p.m. Adjourn	

#### PURPOSE

To inspire and equip families to be on mission through sharing their Christian faith.

#### FELT NEEDS ADDRESSED

- Families are stressed and hurried—they long for meaningful time together.
- Families lack a sense of purpose and biblical significance.
- Parents are failing to pass the baton of their faith in Christ on to the next generation.
- Eighty-eight percent of the students who grow up in evangelical churches leave at age 18 and do not come back.
- Church programming and family priorities often oppose rather than complement one another.

#### PARENTS WILL LEARN HOW TO

- Prioritize their lives to spend quantity and quality time together
- Pass the baton of faith in Christ on to the next generation
- Reduce the stress of everyday family life
- Develop a family mission statement
- Build relational bridges through ministering to others
- Cross relational bridges to share their faith in Christ in a non-threatening way

For more info, contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, MBCB, (601)968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

Sponsored by: North American Mission Board, Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, Evangelism Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jim Futral, Executive Director-Treasurer

## 1999 Professional Certification for Ministry Assistants and Ministry Office SkillShops Camp Garaywa, Clinton



#### MINISTRY OFFICE SKILLSHOPS

August 17-19, 1999

GLENDASUGGS, certified church secretary instructor for LifeWay Christian Resources, and ministry assistant, Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, West Monroe, La.



#### PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

August 17-19, 1999

NELL COLLINS, certified church secretary instructor for LifeWay Christian Resources, and administrative assistant, First Baptist Church, Longview, Tex.

Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, 1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800



Pray this day for...

Aug 6 - 19, 1999

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

### The Greatest thing Is To Pray

*"The greatest thing anyone can do for God and man is to pray. It is not the only thing, but it is the chief thing. The great people of the world today are the people who pray. I do not mean those who talk about prayer, nor those who say they believe in prayer nor those who can explain about prayer but I mean those who take time to pray."*

S. O. Gordon

Missionaries in La Serena, Chile, ask you to pray for the many home Bible study groups in La Serena. They include Bible studies in mentoring, discipleship and for new believers. The neighbor of missionary Kathleen Coy, who stopped her on the street to say that she wanted to study the Bible, accepted the Lord in June.

The Brackenhurst Baptist International Center, Kenya, is used for conferences and other meetings. Pray for the staff at this facility, that they will all come to know Jesus as Savior and Lord.

For Sunday School/Discipleship Directors Seminar, North Batesville, BC, Batesville (Sunday School/Discipleship & Family Ministry). Pray for laborers to hear the call of God and join in telling the "Greatest Story Ever Told" to the Fulani people of Niger.

Missionary Suzanne Schmitz writes from Moba of Togo: "Recently we asked you to pray for the leader of the church in Nioukpourma about serious family problems. Praise God that many of these problems have been solved with God's help. Continue to pray for them that they will be a strong witness for Christ."

For Sunday School/Discipleship Directors Seminar, Temple BC, Hattiesburg (Sunday School/Discipleship and Family Ministry). A new group in Mongolia, that has only been meeting a few months, needs your prayers as they seek God's wisdom in the direction of their church.

For 11 Growing Churches, Gulfshore Assembly (Mississippi Baptist Convention Board). Pray for two women's conferences for Chuabo women of Mozambique Aug. 6-8 and 20-22. The theme of the conference is "The Christian Woman in a World Full of Spirits." Pray that they will learn about the power that we have in the Holy Spirit.

Muslims in Iran use the holy book of Islam (the Koran) as the basis of their religion. It is never written in any language other than Arabic, which few Iranians can read. They must depend upon their religious leaders to tell them what the Koran says and means. Pray that the Bible in Farsi (Iranian language) will be made available in Iran so they can read it for themselves.

For the Worship Seminar, Baptist Building (Witness Team). Dave Howeth is associational missionary for Treasure State Baptist Association in Helena, Montana. Pray for four of their churches that are without pastors and for Dave as he gives leadership to the churches.

Authorities have asked believers serving in a very responsive (Last Frontier) area to leave. Please pray that they will find favor in the eyes of the officials so that they can return to continue the work.

Missionaries Jay and Kathy Shatto ask for continued prayer for the new church in Garango, Burkina Faso. This congregation has been studying spiritual gifts. Pray that each member will know the gifts given to him or her by God and will be willing to use these gifts in the church.

The homeland of the Kabyle Berbers of Algeria is so poor that it is incapable of feeding its total population. Please pray for an on-going project to feed the hungry throughout Kabylia, and pray that it will bring food not only for their bodies but for their souls.

For Certification for Ministry Assistants, Camp Garaywa (Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries); Chet Mason, Columbus, Ohio, is a church planter pastor of Neal Avenue Baptist. Pray for the church, which ministers in the inner city.

Please pray for the country of Ecuador, her leaders and her people. The country is undergoing tremendous economic problems. Many people are out of work, and crime is very high and very violent.

A successful outreach was recently completed to an unreached people group in the Philippines. Two Filipino single women on the team remained among the group to minister to them full time. Pray that local churches bordering this group will also reach out to make Christ known.

## Missions Explosion

**August 20-21**  
**Camp Garaywa**  
**Friday 5 p.m. - Saturday noon**  
**\$10 (includes Friday dinner and lodging)**

### "Missions State Fair"

featuring

- Dinner on the ground
- Missionary moments
- Conference
- Interactive games and booths
- Ice Cream Fellowship
- Worship and much more!

**PRE-REGISTRATION  
REQUIRED BY  
AUGUST 6!!!**

call WMU immediately  
1-800-748-1651 or  
(601) 968-3800



## Ministry Retreat for Women

*"Rally for Peace"*

September 17-18, 1999

First Baptist, Jackson, Tenn.

Registration Fee: \$15 (non-refundable)

(Includes meeting facilities & materials, conferences and Saturday lunch)

*Plant seeds of peace with women of all ages during spiritually enriching conferences and a Saturday ministry project. Projects will include prayer retreat, block parties, health fairs, painting, nursing home visits, children's activities, PrayerWalks and much more.*

**Missionaries Peter and Jenny Stillman, Indonesia,**  
**will share about violence in their country.**

**Jackson Community Leaders, along with police, will PrayerWalk with us.**

### Schedule:

Friday:

1:45 p.m. Registration opens  
2:30 Conference of Choice  
3:40 Conference of Choice  
7:00 Ministry Preparation and Worship

Saturday:

8:00 a.m. Leave for Ministry Assignments  
11:30 Return to church  
12:00 Lunch/Closing Worship

*Also mark your calendar for  
a Women's Retreat on Sept. 10 - 11*

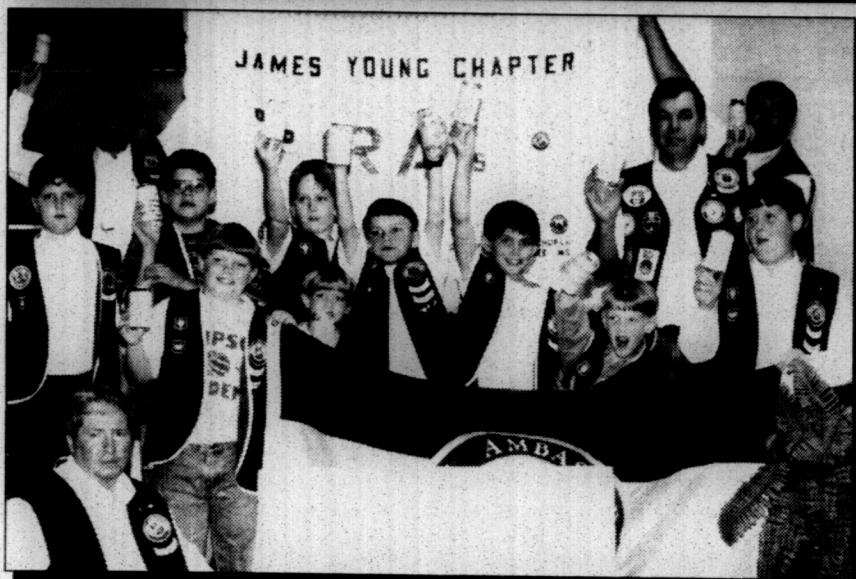
Look for details in  
the next Baptist Record

For info and registration forms  
for either retreat  
contact the WMU, Mississippi  
Baptist Convention Board  
(601)968-3800 or  
1-800-748-1651

# HOUSE TOPS



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



**James Young Chapter of RAs** at Corinth Church, Magee made World Hunger cans and raised \$900 to help hungry people around the world. RAs pictured are Aaron Walker, Kevin White, Stan Green, James Weathersby, Tyler Williamson, Wade Mitchell, Robert Stewart, Gabriel Alvarez, and Adam Blair. Leaders pictured are Calvin Blair, Kenny Stewart, Larry Bynum, and Willie Johns. Dean Stewart is pastor.



**Members of Carroll/Montgomery Association**

**Twenty-nine members** of Carroll/Montgomery Association recently traveled to Swainsboro, Ga. They helped construct a new sanctuary at Hawhammock Church and taught VBS at Hawhammock Church and Summertown Church.

**Michael Combs** of Todd, N.C., will be in concert at Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, on Aug. 8 at 6 p.m. Combs, a liver transplant recipient, uses his music and life experiences as a witness for Christ.

**Youth from Ridgecrest Church, Madison,** attended SonPower, an annual youth

music event in Orlando, Fla. More than 840 youth from across the country participated. The youth formed a massive choir which rehearsed throughout the week and recorded a work of guest composers Dennis and Nan Allen on the final day. Youth also participated in Bible studies and worship, led by youth evangelist Jay Strack. Concerts each night featured Christian artists.

## FBC, Holly Springs hosts women's conf.

The fifth annual Time Out for Women conference is planned for Aug. 13-14 at First Church, Holly Springs. This year's theme is "Reflecting His Image."

The conference begins on Aug. 13 at 5:30 p.m. and concludes at noon on Aug. 14 with a luncheon. Registration fee is \$20. Nursery is provided for an additional \$2.

Key note speaker is Liz Curtis Higgs, of Lexington, Ky. Higgs has traveled in 40 states and spoken her humorous message of encouragement more than 1,200

times. She and her husband, Bill, have two young children and one old house known as The Laughing Heart Farm.

Special guest speaker is JoAnn Leavell of Wichita Falls, Tex. Leavell is the author of two books, "Don't Miss the Blessings," and "Joy in the Journey." Leavell and her husband, Landrum, moved to Texas after his retirement as president of New Orleans Seminary.

Back by popular demand is praise and worship leader Sharon Williams of Memphis, Tenn.

Workshops include: Home Schooling — Is it the Answer?

taught by Judy Pierce of Memphis, Tenn.; Let's Talk about Spiritual Gifts, taught by Katherine Lewis of Mt. Pleasant; Intimacy in the Marriage Relationship, taught by Rachael Breter of Corinth; Let Me See Your Face, Let Me Hear Your Voice (Through Prayer), taught by Dot Maki of Olive Branch; Enriching the Mature Woman's Life, Physically, Emotionally, and Spiritually, taught by Sue Nash, Memphis; Encouragement for Busy Young Moms, taught by Jandra Beasley of Hickory Flat; and Making Your Home a More Beautiful Place to Live, taught by Roma Buchan of Dynasty Designs, Collierville, Tenn.

For more information contact First Church, Holly Springs at (601) 252-2627. Send registration to First Baptist Church, P. O. Box 428, Holly Springs, MS 38935-0428.

**A group of men** from Society Hill Church, Oakvale, recently made a mission trip to Oklahoma City. They worked with tornado victims to clear debris from highways and homes. Pictured (from left) are Ellis Coleman, Jimmie McSwain, Larue Magee, and Carlos Langston. Dee Debold is pastor.



**Mission group from Society Hill Church, Oakvale**

**Mt. Pleasant Church, Bogue Chitto,** will celebrate the tenth anniversary of Anthony Yarborough, pastor, his wife Karen, and children, Andy and Rebecca, on Aug. 8. Activities include Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; and covered dish lunch at noon.

**First Church, Jackson,** will sponsor Run for the Son Aug. 14; 5K Run/Walk, 8 a.m.; 1 mile Fun Run, 9 a.m. Food, drinks, and entertainment will be served following the race. Fees are \$12 for pre-registration; \$15

for race day; \$32 family max for pre-registration; \$35 family max for race day. For more information, call (601) 949-1945.



**First Church, Canton,** recently honored 20 World War II veterans with a program at the church. After the Pledge of Allegiance and the Star Spangled Banner, local historian Jim Lacey served as narrator and recalled war-time incidents involving local service men. As the anthem from each branch of the military was played, veterans of that branch stood and were honored with a ribboned medal. The patriotic theme focused on statues of Uncle Sam by Charlotte Wilson and on World War II memorabilia. The program concluded with Lee Greenwood's God Bless the USA, sung by Chris Turner, minister of music and senior adult advisor at the church.



**Southside Church, Jackson,** recently held a GA Recognition service. GAs pictured (from left) are Carrie Chennault, Brittany Reid, and Nicole Cummings; not pictured are Sierra and Shawna Graham; teachers pictured (from left) are Robin Arender, Jodi Blakeney, Tonya Reid, Betty Cummings, Julie Jones, and Brenda Uick.

## Colonial Heights hosts concert

**Phillips, Craig, and Dean** will be in concert at Colonial Heights Church, Aug. 9 at 7 p.m. This is a free concert. A love offering will be taken. For more information call (601) 956-5000.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

### DELIGHTFUL PICTURE

Editor:

What a delight to see the pictures of all those dear ladies of WMU (attending the national WMU meeting in Atlanta). I just rejoiced as I looked at each one and memories of their service and my association with each one.

My WMU covers a span of 63 years. The past has been wonderful and with Rebecca Williams as our dear leader the best is yet to come. Mississippi WMU has a wonderful heritage and we will "Go Forward."

Your editorial (on deceptive homosexual advertising) is a wake-up call to all the prayer warriors. It's frightening what is happening in our nation, and we have the truth and the judgment will be greater on us. I pray every Baptist in Mississippi reads this information.

Olga Simmons  
Myrtle

### FAMILYNET AVAILABLE

Editor:

Did you realize Southern Baptists currently have access to over 40 million American households (80+ million people) through the FamilyNet television network?

Furthermore, did you know that a window of opportunity currently exists to get the network on cable systems across Mississippi?

Yes, FamilyNet is no longer just a broadcast network!

As cable operators are assessing the current variety of religious cable networks, most are not aware that FamilyNet is available to them.

Some of these cable managers are choosing other networks which frequently do not reflect our beliefs. These cable professionals need to know that our mainline, evangelical network, operated by the Broadcast Communications Group in Fort Worth, can now be carried on their systems.

How tragic that many communities are settling for a less desirable network choice when they can have the quality Christian programming on FamilyNet!

At this critical point in our nation's history when the average family watches over 50 hours of television per week and yet little seems to be worth watching, you can help us impact individuals and families with quality Christian programming.

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Christ as well as to bring a wholesome alternative to today's television screens.

We are asking you to help us alert Mississippi Baptists to the opportunity. In some communities, getting FamilyNet on cable simply depends on enough of our people asking the manager to carry it!

R. Chip Turner  
North American Mission Bd.  
Atlanta, Ga.

### EXAMPLES OF GOOD

Editor:

On Monday morning, July 12, my wife and I were en route to Kosciusko on Highway 49, taking a group of five boys to Central Hills for RA week.



**LifeAnswers**

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

*A recent promotion boosted my salary over my husband's salary. He's a traditional guy who feels threatened by this development. What can I say to him?*

As you know, a man's ego is fragile. This started in the garden as a consequence of Adam's disobedience. The result from God was that man would be forced to toil and work the land. Therefore a man's identity became tied to his work. Success at work is determined in our culture by dollars, not satisfaction or enjoyment. Understanding these issues, as is evident by your question, is the first step in knowing what to say. Take some time and discuss the issue from all directions. He may first want to ignore that this is a problem or deny this is a threat, but you know better. Let him talk. Don't begin listing all the things that you will now be able to afford. This is rubbing your promotion in his face and telling him that he is a poor provider. If he doesn't want to talk, then say things like, "Well if it did bother you what might you feel?" or, "I'm wondering if I should even take the promotion." In baseball parlance, this is a curve he will not

About 6:30 a.m., we had a blowout on the left back tire of our church van. I got out of our van to begin changing the tire only to discover there was no tire tool in the van.

Needless to say, I was in a bind, on the road with five little boys on a busy highway with nothing to change a tire.

Shortly thereafter, Travis Kelly, a member of First Church, Collins, pulled over to assist us. Just moments later, Craig Smith, a highway patrolman, pulled over as well.

Both men were answers to prayer. They could not have been any nicer. Both Kelly and Smith are examples of the good things that still happen around us every day.

Far too often, we all focus on

expect. It also takes the pressure off him, putting it on to the issue at hand and away from a competition between the two of you.

*I can see why smart couples nail down pre-nuptial agreements; I got cleaned out by my ex-wife. Why doesn't the church include this subject in premarital counseling?*

A marriage is a covenant — not a contract. If a couple goes into a marriage preparing for the worst with a pre-nuptial agreement, then they do not put their whole selves into the marriage and thus do not get the full benefit. A marriage is two people giving 100% of themselves to serve God by loving their partner, just like Christ loved us. Divorce occurs when one or both partners take their eyes off serving the other and seek to please only themselves. The law then takes the place of the Lord and determines what is right for the "settlement." Wouldn't it be better if the two parties could sit down and determine how best to "settle" the problem and work out the differences? Human selfishness is the reason for getting "cleaned out," rather than abiding by God's grace.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.



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the bad things. These men are examples of the good.

I know this preacher will be forever grateful to both of them.

Greg Potts, pastor  
First Church, Vancleave

### THANKS FOR AUTOMOBILE

Editor:

The Macedonian Call Foundation of Mississippi provides automobiles for a very low cost for missionaries on leave from the mission field.

Guinevere and I have been missionaries for 30 years. Over those years the securing and disposing of furlough automobiles was a great burden.

On a recent month's leave to Mississippi we enjoyed and appreciated our first of several (we hope) Macedonian Call Foundation cars.

Words cannot express our appreciation for this wonderful service.

James E. Young  
International Mission Board  
Richmond, Va.

### WELCOME TO LEXINGTON

Editor:

Every year students from across the country come to Lexington, Va., to begin four years of schooling at either Virginia Military Institute or Washington and Lee University.

It is often very difficult to locate the Baptist students or students who may be interested in Baptist Student Union before they arrive to the area.

I would greatly appreciate any assistance from the churches in your state in helping me to locate these students before the 1999-2000 school year begins. I can be reached at 120 W. Nelson Street, Lexington, VA 24450 or (540) 463-5366 or natkline@hotmail.com.

I greatly appreciate your assistance in this ministry opportunity to reach our future leaders with the message of Christ's love.

Natalie Kline, campus min.  
Lexington Area BSU  
Lexington, Va.

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# Savvy needed to combat Internet negatives

By Judi Slayden Hayes  
BP Correspondent

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Jeremy, an eighth-grader, just likes to play video games. He found a really neat one recently when a friend told him to visit a new Internet site.

Even though it seemed to have a historical context — World War II — the action and computer graphics were more than state of the art; they were the best Jeremy had ever seen.

Weeks later Jeremy made an offensive racial remark at the dinner table. His parents — who had never thought, much less voiced, such an epithet — were shocked. They had never heard any of Jeremy's friends use such bigoted slurs.

The web site, it turns out, is not an innocent game location but a site established to propagate white supremacy. The web designer freely admits to targeting kids. While accusers say this and other websites propagate hate, the designer's defense is that it teaches love — love for other white people. Both hatred and violence easily could be learned from the website.

The World Wide Web has radically expanded the audience for radical hate groups, and all under the auspices of free speech. The medium is inexpensive, anonymous, growing exponentially, and entering your home uninvited.

The computer or the Internet or the World Wide Web is no more evil than the newspaper, the television movies, books, or magazines. All such tools can be used for good or bad.

One of the difficulties in combating the evils that can enter a teenager's consciousness through a modem is the ignorance of many adults about using computers — especially

entering the World Wide Web.

Begin in the home. Parents have long known about the dangers of the availability of pornography through the Internet. Many may not know about other kinds of dangerous information.

For church staffers who work with parents, consider these suggestions:

- ◆ Provide computer training for parents.

- ◆ Plan dialog times for parents and students to discuss and learn about computers together.

- ◆ Distribute guidelines for parents to use in talking with their youth about Internet use.

- ◆ Plan parent-youth computer classes where kids teach the parents how to use the computers.

- ◆ Provide monthly or quarterly computer news bulletins for parents to keep them informed about current dangers.

Include computer use in your time with teenagers. Set up monthly meetings for computer-user discussion groups.

Encourage teenagers to come prepared to review websites. Let them share lists of websites they have visited and want to share with others, along with information about why they like that particular website.

Meet where you have computer availability. Visit some of the websites together. Let teenagers choose the "best site of the day."

Teach youth to discriminate and to question what they see on the Internet. Some adults once believed that everything

in print was true. Many learned that "a picture is worth a thousand words" and that "pictures don't lie" until they discovered that with computer help pictures can be radically altered. People who've never visited France can have convincing photos of themselves in front of the Eiffel Tower.

Electronic communication belongs to the world of youth. They likely will find information on the computer more credible than anything in print, perhaps more compelling than what they see on TV.

Give them guidelines for viewing, criteria for evaluating what they see. Invite them to ask you or other youth leaders about questionable content, which may shock or offend adults.

To help them learn to be discriminating themselves, find ways to help them evaluate what they see without judging or condemning them for telling you what they've found on the Internet.

Monitor church computers closely. Computers are valuable tools for teaching youth at church. Whether the computers are in the media library, the Christian school, the office, or the classrooms, make sure they are as user-safe as possible.

Learn all you can about filtering methods. This technology works by identifying common words and phrases — such as obscene or violent words. Filters can be placed on individual computers or on the Internet provider's server. With the filter in place, when a user enters a Web address into a computer, the filter checks for

objectionable elements related to that page.

Maintain your own ethics in your personal computer use. Some ministers, even while seeking to monitor and help teenagers use this tool responsibly, have themselves been caught up in obscene or violent websites.

Like other media, computer websites can become addictive. Know your own limitations and stay true to your values. Don't let your own investigation lead to your downfall.

Through the Internet teenagers can learn to search for biblical passages, biblical answers to life's questions. They can compare Bible translations, visit the Holy Land, and learn about other religions.

Make the positives far outweigh the negatives in computer use. Help teenagers become so excited about the beneficial information on the Web that they have no time to visit dangerous websites.

Stay current. Your teenagers are on the Web. You should be, too. You may not be able to stay one step ahead of them in this area, but they will respect your involvement and concern as you include computer use as part of your ministry with youth.

Hayes is a freelance writer based in Mt. Juliet, Tenn. This edited article is reprinted by permission from the August 1999 edition of *Youth Ministry Update*, resource for youth ministers published by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.



## YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.  
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.  
(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.  
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.  
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

## Elizabeth T. Cooper, 87, dies

Elizabeth Thompson Cooper, 87, died of cardiac arrest July 14 at St. Catherine's Village in Madison. A memorial service was held July 17 in the chapel of St. Catherine's Village. Cooper was a native of Madison, Ga., and a graduate of Agnes Scott College. In 1984, William Carey College (WCC) awarded her a doctor of humanities degree. In 1991, WCC established the Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies in honor of Elizabeth and Owen Cooper. She was the widow of the late Owen Cooper, past president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Survivors include daughters, Nancy Cooper Gilbert of Brandon, Carolyn Cooper of Chapel Hill, N.C., Elizabeth Cooper of Houston, Texas, and Frances Cooper Miles of West Point; son, Owen Cooper Jr., Walnut Creek, Calif.; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Memorials may be sent to the Cooper School of Missions, WCC, 498 Tuscan Avenue, Box 161, Hattiesburg, MS 39401-5499.

## HOMEcomings

**Oak Hill Church (Pontotoc):** Aug. 14-15; Sesquicentennial

**Celebration;** Aug. 13, 3 p.m.; Jim Roberts and Callie Young, guest speakers; Tami Walls, music; fellowship meal, 5 p.m. with music provided by "Walk by Faith"; Aug. 15, 10:30 a.m.; George Stewart and Earl Kelly, guest speakers; Darla Robinson, music; old-fashioned meal following morning service; 1 p.m., choral musical, "To God Be the Glory," presented by Oak Hill,

**Center Hill, Emmanuel and Harmony Churches of Pontotoc County;** James Welch, pastor.

**Star, Star:** Aug. 8; Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.; worship, 10:00 a.m.; dinner immediately following the service; Vic Bowman, pastor.

**Little Bahala (Lincoln):** Aug. 8, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall at noon; revival, Aug. 9-11; 7 p.m.; Bart Walker, Parkway Church, Natchez, evangelist; Tom and Willa Moak, music; Wayne Grey, pastor.

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### BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC

is needed at Gunter Road Baptist Church. Send resumes to Dick Steadman, 1220 Gunter Road, Florence, MS 39073. Call 601-932-2542 or 601-939-2542.

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## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### Agonizing achievement

• Genesis 32:3-33:17

By Grant Arinder

The events described in this lesson represent an agonizing achievement in the life of Jacob. It is important to note that a proper interpretation of these verses demands that the story be read on two levels — the physical and spiritual.

Jacob's agonizing achievement comes after a lifetime of wrestling with both Esau and God. In the end, there is reconciliation and reconstruction. God changes not only Jacob's name, but also his character.

**Burden of guilt (32:3-11).** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the creator of Sherlock Holmes, once played a practical joke on twelve of his famous friends. Doyle sent each

of them an anonymous telegram that simply read, "Fly at once, all is discovered." Within twenty-four hours all twelve of the men had taken a trip out of the country.

It's amazing how a guilty conscience can hurt us. Jacob knew the reality of living with a guilty conscience. Although Jacob had now lived with Laban, his mother's brother, for twenty years (31:38), the fear associated with a guilty conscience still haunted him.

The story reveals that Jacob's utmost concern about returning to his family was the fear and guilt associated with his deception twenty years earlier.

The story of sin and decep-

tion is one of short-sightedness. The desire for immediate gratification blinds us to the difficult and painful moments that always follow sin. Jacob eventually had to face his guilt and deception, his God and his brother. So did King David, and so will you and I. Sin is fun for a season but, as Jacob and David found out, seasons change.

**Brokenness before God (32:9-11).** It is interesting to compare and contrast the different interactions between Jacob and God. These passages reveal both the divine election of God and the freewill response of each individual necessary to any true relationship.

Up to this point God was the initiator of all interactions. God was displayed as sovereign and his election of Jacob part of his divine prerogative.

In the womb, God chose

Jacob. Later on his way to Haran, God revealed himself to Jacob and promised to bless him. The closest thing to a demonstration of faith by Jacob was a conditional promise to follow God "if" God acted appropriately (28:20).

However, when we come to the prayer in 32:9-11, Jacob seeks God. There was no true relationship between Jacob and God until Jacob freely turned to God and humbled himself before him. God chose Jacob the deceiver, but he did not become the changed person "Israel" until he freely chose God.

In the cross God has not made a limited, but a limitless, atonement. He has chosen each of us, just as we were, deceptive and sinful. He awaits our free response to him and then he changes us also.

**Retribution (32:13-17; 33:10).** After encountering a holy God, Zacheus knew he must make retribution for his sin and deception. This pattern was true for Jacob as

well. Jacob had stolen both Esau's birthright and blessing, but then he encountered God.

Jacob gave a gift of over 500 different types of livestock to his brother Esau. Some may argue that Jacob's motives in the gifts were self-serving. Yet, in Gen. 33:10, we see that Jacob clearly feels the need to give it to Esau and make retribution.

**Reconciliation.** Jacob has spent his life struggling with his brother, even in the womb, but now he has found reconciliation. It is appropriate that he also struggles with God. In the end Jacob knows the forgiveness of both earthly brother and heavenly father. It is interesting how one earthly and spiritual relationship parallels another. To be estranged from God is to be estranged from our fellow man. To be estranged from our fellow man is to be estranged from God.

Arinder is pastor of First Church, Belzoni.

## LIFE AND WORK

### The seeker's reward

Acts 8:26-40

By Tony Martin

What is the meaning of life? This most significant of all questions has been pondered, pursued, and parodied all throughout history. As people have searched for this abstract-sounding "meaning of life," they've come up with many convoluted answers.

Many times, people are put in crisis situations such as a death, a job loss, or a missed opportunity. For the Christian, we understand that there is no way this question can be answered apart from the person and work of Jesus Christ. As people search for the answer to life's questions, an open mind will lead them to God.

So, how does one go about finding answers about life's meaning? The classic passage of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch gives some good guidelines.

**Search the Scriptures (Acts 8:26-29).** God directed Philip to the right person at the right time. Chances are none of us will have an angel give us directions as did Philip, but we do know that the Holy Spirit guides us toward those who might be seeking.

This court official, a eunuch who was the treasurer in the court of Queen Candace, was from what was then known as Nubia, located south of Egypt. He was concerned enough about

his own spiritual welfare to travel almost 200 miles to Jerusalem to worship God. Apparently he had not gotten all the answers he wanted. He was sitting in his chariot reading from the book of Isaiah.

This man was seeking after God. Like many people in today's world, he had just enough knowledge to make him hungry.

And at the right point in his search, God sends Philip along as just the person the eunuch needed. The scriptures held the answers for him; he just needed some explanation.

**Accept help (Acts 8:30-31).** As Philip approached the chariot, he heard the eunuch reading aloud from the prophet Isaiah. In those days, it was customary for students to read aloud. This man sure was ripe for a witness! Philip, sensing an extraordinary opportunity, stepped into the breach and asked, "Do you understand what you are read-

ing?" As a conversation starter, this was a great question. And the eunuch, perhaps sensing that Philip could help him in his understanding, asked for an explanation.

I've heard plenty of testimonies where someone picked up a Gideon Bible in a hotel room and the Holy Spirit led them to Christ. Other times, however, a seeker can come to a point where there are no clear answers. As Christians we should be prepared and willing to help non-believers find answers to their questions.

**Be open to the truth (Acts 8:32-35).** The eunuch was reading from Isaiah 53, the prophecy of God's suffering servant. Good choice! He'd focused in on verses 7 and 8, which described Jesus as the willing sacrifice for sinners, even to the point of laying aside his human rights. As Philip explained these verses to him, the eunuch began to understand the Gospel because God's Spirit was revealing truth to him. Philip used the imagery of the substitu-

tionary sacrifice as a starting point to share the gospel. God takes the initiative to reveal truth.

Many people are interested in finding the truth. We understand as Christians that seekers must be open to God's truth, and we can encourage them with the assurance that they'll find the truth they're seeking.

**Make a faith commitment (Acts 8:36-40).** The eunuch believed on Jesus Christ right then and there and wanted to be baptized. He wanted everyone to know what Christ had done for him. We aren't sure how he knew that baptism was a way of showing his belief, but perhaps he'd seen others baptized earlier in Jerusalem.

At any rate, Philip was taken on to other places of ministry, and the eunuch went on with his journey with a new sense of joy. People find life's true meaning by making a personal commitment to Jesus Christ.

Martin is minister of education at First Church, McComb.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Promises to generous givers

2 Cor. 8:24-9:15

By Ted Dukes

Jesus had more to say about our relationship to material things than any other single subject, knowing that where our treasure is, there our heart would be also. The Apostle Paul knew that the spiritual benefit that would come to the church as they shared in response to God's grace in their lives was far more important than the money they would give.

Paul wanted the contribution to be ready when he and his finance committee arrived so that it would not appear last-minute and forced upon the congregation.

Apparently Paul did not see asking Christians to commit to

giving as an invasion of their privacy. He did not tell them how much to give, because he wanted their gift to be a matter of generosity, and not as though something were being squeezed out of them (9:5).

Our greatest encouragement for giving is that it pleases our Lord, but we encourage others to give through our giving. Such encouragement is not boasting, nor should it ever be done in such a fashion as to appear as boasting.

Nevertheless, encouraging other Christians to do the right thing by setting an example is an integral part of our witness. Jesus promised, "Give, and it shall be given unto you." (Luke 6:38).

The emphasis there is not in the return, but upon being a giver. Giving is a way of life for the Christian. Paul saw a principle of return at work: the more we sow the more we reap (9:6). The more we invest in the work of the Lord, the more "fruit" will abound as our reward (Phil. 4:10-20).

Not only must we give, but we must do so with the right motives (9:7). Our giving must come from the heart in order to please God. Certainly God can bless a gift that is reluctantly given out of a sense of obligation, but he will not bless the giver.

Grace giving mandates a right attitude. The result of grace giving is an immediate blessing for the giver, in addition to the long-range returns, as we share in God's abundant grace (9:8) and assurance of adequate resources within (Phil. 4:11).

When we give we immediately share in God's righteousness (9:9), not that righteousness may be obtained through giving, but that by giving we model the character and nature of the Lord Jesus Christ who is the source of our righteousness.

Grace giving leads to the enrichment of the lives of others (9:11). Our reward comes in part from the knowledge that others are giving thanks to God for the blessing that our giving has been to their lives.

Paul introduces the Corinthians to the idea of giving as their "priestly service" (9:12), translating the material gifts that Christians bring to the altar into spiritual sacrifices, even as the priest of old brought consecrated blood offerings to the altar under the Old Covenant.

The emphasis in 2 Corinthians 9:12 is on the fact that their offering would meet the needs of poor saints in Judea. The church could have

countered Paul's challenge by saying that they had to take care of their own first, or that churches closer to Judea ought to take up the cause of assisting the Christians there, or they might have tried to place some blame on the Judean churches for their desperate state. To have done any such thing would have been to move out of the sphere of grace giving (Gal. 6:10; 1 Tim. 6:18).

If our churches today were to do more grace giving there would be no need for gimmicks whereby we pressure the unbelieving community to support our ministry. There would be fewer complaints from the people of the church who seem reluctant to invest God's money in legitimate ministry, because giving would be a way of life.

Think about it: we are saved because God subscribed to grace giving (Rom. 8:32).

Dukes is pastor of First Church, Crystal Springs.

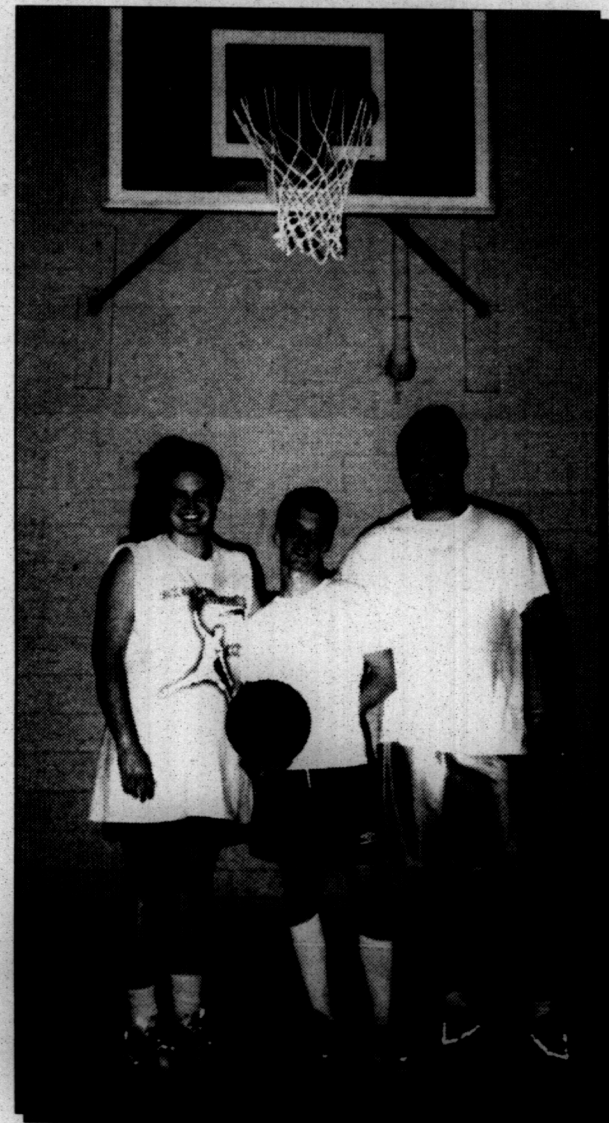


# THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Michael and Candace Mote along with Matt Grammer were the winners of this year's Warren Dykes Memorial Basketball tournament held on the India Nunnery campus.

## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

### JUNE 1-30, 1999 MEMORIALS

**Mr. J. C. Porter**  
Ms. Regina Davis  
**Mr. Virgil Thomas Smith**  
Mrs. Judith Randle Brewer  
Mrs. Oma L. Lupo  
**Willie Webb Smith**  
Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Lamar Foote Jr.  
**Mrs. Guy Nell Speights**  
Mr. & Mrs. Herman L. Dungan Jr.  
**Ms. Karen Farmer Spitchily**  
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Turnbo  
Mrs. Bonnie Anderson  
Tim & Paige Anderson  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Mangold  
**Mr. Lynn Sprecher**  
Mrs. Edna T. Johnson  
**Teddy Stanley**  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Klempeter  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Stanley  
Mr. Blake Stanley  
**Jasper Steel**  
Ms. Sissy Johnston  
**William J. Stewart**  
Graeber Brothers, Inc.  
**Pauline Stokes**  
Mrs. Carole L. Mattox  
**Thomas J. Strickland**  
Mrs. Jackson P. Calhoun  
Mr. & Mrs. George Lester  
Mrs. Gerry McGraw  
**Ann Sturdivant**  
Employees of US District Court  
**Maxine Sutherland**  
Highland Baptist Church  
**Mrs. Lena Tarbet**  
Mr. & Mrs. Hale Singletary Jr.  
**Martha V. Taylor**  
Richard & Tamara Taylor  
**Mr. Kimble Taylor**  
Mr. Wendell Webb  
**Mary Lee Temple**  
Siloam Baptist Church  
**Roy Temple**  
Concord Baptist Church  
**Mr. Earl W. Terrell**  
Mrs. Anita C. Crigler

**Kyle Terry**  
Preschool Dept, FBC-Louisville  
**Mrs. John D. Thomas**  
Mr. & Mrs. Moran M. Pope Jr.  
**Mr. Clarence Thompson**  
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Shumate  
**William F. Thorne**  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe C. Hull  
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Dr. & Mrs. Richard Joiner

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Mr. & Mrs. Charles S. Davis  
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**H. S. (Vick) Vickers**  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Thomas Vickers  
**Herbert S. Vickers**  
Ms. Verna E. Vickers  
**Mrs. Viola Vineyard**  
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**Mr. & Mrs. Pat Ingram**  
R. J., Wayne, & Patti Edwards  
**Mrs. Lula Mae Kimbrell Walker**  
Mr. & Mrs. Bennie L. Hood  
**Mr. Warren Ward**  
Mr. & Mrs. Truman Aldridge  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Ward  
**Mr. W. C. Ware**  
Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Davis  
**Mr. Gordon Warnock**  
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Triplett  
**Mrs. Josie A.L. Warrington**  
Mr. & Mrs. Herbie Kirk  
Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey M. Brumfield

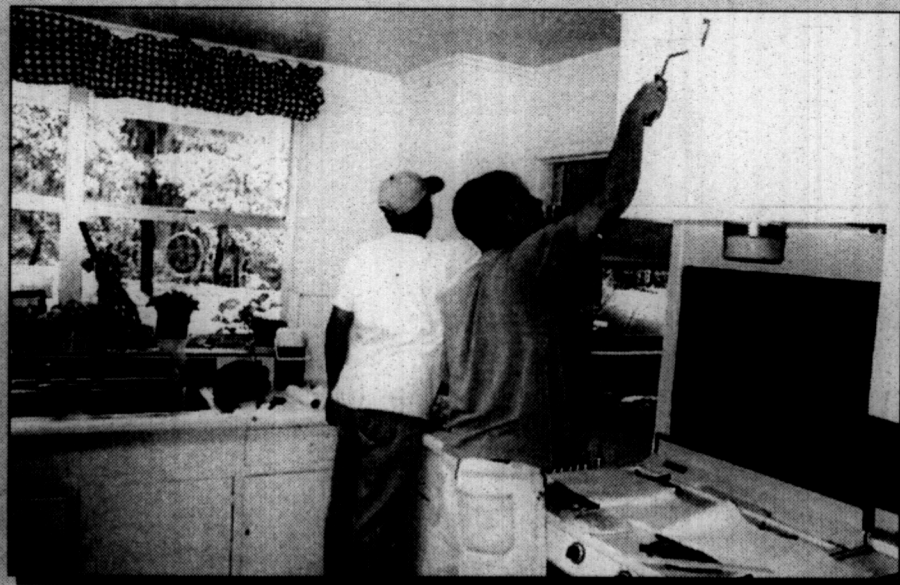
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Mr. & Mrs. Herman L. Dungan Jr.  
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Rev. & Mrs. Howard Scarborough  
**Tillman Wiggins**  
Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Coleman  
**Mark Wilbanks**  
Mrs. Joyce Wilbanks  
**Mr. J. A. Willis**  
Mr. & Mrs. John E. Maxwell  
**Mrs. Juanita Wimberly**  
Mr. & Mrs. Raiford Strong  
**Mr. Larry Winegarten**

**Mr. & Mrs. Donald L. McCormick**  
**Thomas Wolford, IV**  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Richey  
**Kimberly Wolverton**  
Cindy Shackelford (Merrill Lynch)  
**Mr. R. A. Wood**  
Mr. & Mrs. B. R. Taylor  
**James Wright**  
Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Coleman  
**Wayne Wyatt**  
Randy Broadway & Family  
**Mrs. Marcelle Young**  
Mrs. Harris B. Peyton



## Giving of their time

Volunteers from Foxworth, Mississippi, spent their Saturday helping with maintenance needs at The Village. They painted in several cottages and at the gym.





# 'OMTSJ' to build on 'WWJD' popularity

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Most evangelical Christians probably are familiar with WWJD, which stands for "What Would Jesus Do?" The five-bead "power band" bracelet has been popular for years as a tool for sharing the gospel. Now the best of each has been combined in "OMTSJ."

The acronym stands for "On Mission to Share Jesus," and the North American Mission Board hopes it will become a popular and effective tool for helping Southern Baptists share their faith. With its own bracelet and range of products aimed at making it a popular conversation starter, the plan will be rolled out to Southern Baptist churches Oct. 3 on On Mission To Share Jesus Sunday (formerly Soul

Winning Commitment Sunday).

Jack Smith, an associate in soul-winning evangelism for the North American Mission Board and principal developer of the materials, led a conference introducing the concept during the June 26-July 2 On Mission '99 conference at the Ridgcrest (N.C.) Conference Center.

Smith said the plan is designed as a simple and effective way for people to witness to people at any time, including those who ask about the "OMTSJ" logo on their clothing or baseball cap or see the leather-strap bracelet.

The letters, as with the WWJD slogan, are intended more as a reminder to Christians to share their faith, Smith said, while the beads are used in actual witnessing.

"When people ask me what is the OMTSJ, I try to strike a deal with them," Smith said. "If they will let me tell them what the colors mean, I will tell them what OMTSJ means."

The suggested strategy for OMTSJ Sunday is for every person in the congregation to assemble one of the bracelets during the sermon as the pastor explains the presentation. The Christians learn the witnessing tool, Smith said, and non-Christians receive a clear presentation of the gospel and an opportunity to respond.

"It's not a new concept, but as far as we know there's never been a nationwide effort in churches to put a bracelet in the hands of tens of thousands of people in one Sunday morning service," Smith said. "In one prayed-for service, the entire congregation can learn to share the gospel, and lost people can be led to Christ."

The bracelet includes five plastic beads on a leather cord, each with a corresponding color to illustrate the gospel. The strap represents the individual's life, and the

knots on each end represent the person's physical birth and death, respectively.

The dark bead represents separation from God. The red represents redemption through the blood of Jesus Christ.

The white stands for forgiveness of sin. The blue bead represents the act of believing and receiving Jesus Christ.

Finally, the green bead represents the growth of the new Christian through baptism, prayer, Bible study, and involvement in a church.

"We hope that this simplified witness training will cause a hunger in people for more in-depth witness training such as FAITH or CWT [Continuing Witness Training]," Smith said.

Included in the OMTSJ is a plan for a month-long high-attendance campaign for Sunday School that begins Oct. 3, Smith said, which will allow members to commit to bringing friends and using the bracelet to share their faith. The campaign was developed in cooperation with LifeWay Christian Resources.

The month will culminate in an opportunity for individual Sunday School classes to develop their own goals for evangelistic growth and work with the full church body in determining church goals, Smith said.

"More people are open to talk to you about Jesus right now than they were a year or two years ago," he said. "The only parallel I've seen to this time was the early '70s, when the Jesus People movement was going on."

Packets of sample materials for OMTSJ Sunday will be mailed beginning in early July, Smith said.

For more information on OMTSJ or the Millennium Survey, Smith may be reached at (770) 410-6319.



## 22,000 Kenyans accept Christ during crusade

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP) — The line was long but no one seemed to mind. It was worth the wait just to get the neon green sticker tacked on a shirt.

The sticker itself didn't cause the excitement. It was the message on it — "Jesus Loves Me" — that provoked the frenzy. It was a message many had never heard before but now believed with all their hearts.

More than 22,000 people received Christ as Savior during the Eastern Kenya Baptist Evangelistic Effort in late June and early July. The outreach drew 332 volunteers from churches throughout the United States and saw 132 congregations started.

The month-long project was divided into two phases, each lasting two weeks. Teams were dispersed to seven cities or regions along the eastern coast of Kenya. The areas of concentration included Kilifi, Malindi, Magarini, Mombasa, Mitito Andei, Ukambani East, and Ukambani South.

Volunteers worked hand in hand with local Kenyan church members to spread the news of Christ's love. International Mission Board missionaries Clay Coursey and Jim Musen used the volunteers in direct evangelism and to help start new churches. Some of these same volunteers will return in February to partici-

pate in a follow-up workshop for the new churches.

Kenyan pastor Samuel Katana worked closely with the volunteers and team leaders.

He not only saw many of his neighbors trust in Christ, but he also saw church members become active evangelists as

they worked with the Americans. Katana and Coursey agree this zeal for evangelism is one of the most important results of the evangelistic effort.

"It feels so good to work and do what God commanded all Christians to do — to go teach

and baptize," the Kenyan pastor said. "The people here are very open and receptive to the gospel right now."

"Our goal is to start enough churches so that everyone is within walking distance, and we are getting a good start on that now."



**SHARING GOOD NEWS** — More than 22,000 people received Christ as savior during the Eastern Kenya Baptist Evangelistic Effort in late June and early July. A total of 332 Southern Baptist volunteers worked with Kenyan Baptists and International Mission Board missionaries in the effort, which resulted in 132 new congregations. Volunteer Bill Arbo (second from right) of Roanoke, Va., shares the plan of salvation with Giriama villagers in Malindi, Kenya. (BP photo by Sue Sprengle)

### Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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ITFG YFJFJUFYFK Q ITF  
NAYK AX ITF PAYK, TAN  
ITSI TF RSQK, ZATG  
QGKFFK USOIQCFK NQIT  
NSIFY; UDI WF RTSPF UF  
USOIQCFK NQIT ITF  
TAPW MTARI.

SEIR FPFBFK: RQLIFFG

Clue: M = G

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Three: Twelve.